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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

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TWO MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION EMPLOYEES ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES OF SELLING NJ DIGITAL DRIVER'S LICENSES TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS

Broker Also Arrested By Division of Criminal Justice and Morristown PD

TRENTON – Attorney General Zulima V. Farber today announced that two Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) clerks at the Morristown MVC agency and an alleged “broker” have been arraigned on charges of selling driver’s licenses to unauthorized persons, following a four-month investigation by the Division of Criminal Justice and the MVC.

All three defendants were arraigned this morning before Superior Court Judge Salem Vincent Ahto in Morris County. The two clerks allegedly issued New Jersey digital driver’s licenses to individuals who paid several thousand dollars per license to the broker and who were not required to provide the MVC with any of the required identification documents to demonstrate their legal authority to obtain a license. The broker allegedly gave a share of the money paid for each unauthorized license to the clerk who issued it.

“Document fraud of this kind is a serious crime with the potential to undermine public safety and security,” said Attorney General Farber. “We will continue to aggressively investigate such crimes and prosecute the individuals involved to the full extent of the law.”

“This investigation illustrates the significant role DCJ investigators and local police departments play everyday in New Jersey’s effort to stop motor vehicle-related document fraud,” MVC Chief Administrator Sharon A. Harrington said. “MVC’s resolve is continued and cooperative vigilance.”

“Investigators from the Division of Criminal Justice and the Motor Vehicle Commission were able to infiltrate the alleged corrupt activities of these MVC employees and their broker in order to bring them to justice,” said Division of Criminal Justice Director Gregory A. Paw. “Our investigation into this alleged document fraud scheme is continuing.”

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Paw said all three defendants were arrested Saturday at the MVC agency on Speedwell Avenue in Morristown by Division of Criminal Justice investigators and members of the Morristown Police Department. He identified the defendants as:

- § Tressa V. Schumacher, 36, Wharton. MVC clerk. Charged with participating in a pattern of official misconduct, official misconduct, conspiracy and tampering with public records. In custody in Morris County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.
- § Trucinder “Trudy” Clark, 36, Morristown. MVC clerk. Charged with participating in a pattern of official misconduct, official misconduct, conspiracy and tampering with public records. In custody in Morris County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.
- § Iftikar Shaida, 54, of Morris Plains. Allegedly brokered sales of unauthorized licenses. Charged with bribery, participating in a pattern of official misconduct, official misconduct, conspiracy and tampering with public records. In custody in Morris County Jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

During the investigation, it was revealed that at least 15 unauthorized licenses allegedly were issued by the clerks. As part of the investigation, video surveillance recordings were made of some transactions involving the two clerks and the broker at the Morristown MVC agency.

The two clerks have been suspended without pay by the MVC.

The investigation was conducted by State Investigator Nick Olenick and Supervising State Investigator Daniel O’Brien of the Division of Criminal Justice and Investigator Jack Hartwick of the MVC. Deputy Attorney General Debra Conrad is prosecuting the case.

The defendants are presumed innocent of the charges unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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